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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
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SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
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FOR DS/IP/AF, DS/IP/ITA
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [ASEC](#) [AMGT](#) [CASC](#) [PREL](#) [ZI](#)
SUBJECT: HARARE: EAC MEETS TO DISCUSS POST ELECTION
VIOLENCE AND ANTICIPATED ELECTION RESULTS

REF: A. A) HARARE 344
[B. B\) HARARE 331](#)
[C. C\) HARARE 327](#)
[D. D\) HARARE 317](#)
[E. E\) HARARE 314](#)
[F. F\) HARARE 309 AND PREV.](#)

[1](#)1. (SBU) Embassy Harare's EAC met on April 30 to review the situation and the mission's security posture. The DCM chaired the meeting; In attendance were representatives from RSO, DAO, CONS, USAID, MGT, R/POL, CDC, GSO, MED, CLO and MSG.

[1](#)2. (SBU) DCM explained that the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) has invited representatives of candidates for the presidency to participate in a process of verification of election results. This will begin on May 1, but it could take days to reach a conclusion. It appears increasingly likely that the ZEC will announce that no candidate won 50% of the vote and that a runoff will be required within 21 days. Such an announcement, however, will not preclude further negotiations or implementation of other strategies, since there is widespread concern that conditions throughout the country are not propitious for a free and fair runoff election.

[1](#)3. (SBU) DCM said that reports of violence in rural areas and, to a lesser extent, in high density suburbs continue, with increasing numbers of deaths reported. DAO, RSO and R/POL agreed. Some reports suggest an acceleration of violence, though others suggest that increasing brutality is associated with tighter targeting; instead of an entire village being beaten, activists are singled out for more severe abuse.

[1](#)4. (SBU) USAID reported that partners operating in rural areas have received conflicting messages. Central government authorities and some local officials are encouraging NGOs to resume humanitarian operations, such as school feeding programs. In other areas, however, international NGOs are accused of using humanitarian assistance to undermine the ruling party. War veterans and local authorities in some areas are ordering NGOs to cease operations and threatening violence if activities continue. DCM noted that the EAC should be attentive to cases in which partners are accused of acting as proxies in what ZANU-PF perceives as a USG effort to effect regime change in Zimbabwe. The local organization that deployed election monitors country-wide is under investigation for this alleged offense as well.

[1](#)5. (SBU) EAC members agreed that Embassy business has remained largely unaffected by the current political

situation. CDC noted that government offices are operating at minimal levels, which has slowed down CDC programs.

¶6. (SBU) EAC members agreed that the mission's current security posture, which includes case-by-case review of in-country travel requests, is appropriate. The EAC decided to recommend to the Ambassador that the prohibition on lodging visitors at the Meikles Hotel be lifted, since the Meikles is no longer the locus of MDC activities. CONS reported that American citizens have not reported any problems, but remain very interested in receiving regular communications from the Embassy. The EAC discussed whether special guidance was required for the Harare International Festival of the Arts, which began April 29. The EAC directed CONS and RSO to prepare a security message and warden message to notify communities that the situation remains somewhat volatile and continued vigilance is necessary.

¶7. (SBU) The Ambassador concurred with the EAC's recommendations.
MCGEE